

(a) whether the Approach Paper to the Eighth Five Year Plan is proposed to be revised in the light of the current economic conditions in the country;

(b) if so, the sectors in which stress is likely to be laid in the Plan and the investment proposed for the same; and

(c) when the Eighth Plan is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Eighth Plan will be finalised before the end of March, 1992, taking into account the existing approach paper document and the current economic situation. Sectoral priorities and related investments will be indicated in the Eighth Plan document on the basis of the re-formulated proposals from the Central Ministries and State Governments for which they are being requested.

Supply of essential commodities to Government servants at subsidised rates

*338. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government to supply essential commodities such as food and cloth to the Government servants at subsidised rates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

*339. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal of disinvesting 20 per cent shares from selected Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to disinvest upto 20 per cent of its equity in selected public sector undertakings.

(b) The details are still being worked out and will be furnished in due course.

Constitution of Coir Board

*340. SHRI T. J. ANJALOSE:

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give representation to the trade unions and co-operative sector in the Coir Board;

(b) whether the Government propose to reconstitute the Coir Board; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (c) The Coir Board is constituted as per the provisions of the Coir Industry Act 1953 and Coir Industry Rules 1954. Representation is given according to the categories specified

in the Act and Rules. The term of the present Board will expire on 15th September, 1991. Action has already been initiated to reconstitute the Board after expiry of its term. There is no specific provision in the Act/Rules, for giving representation to the trade unions/co-operatives. However, in the past, trade unions/co-operative societies were represented on the Board under the category 4(3)(b) of the Act, which provides for appointment of "persons engaged in the production of husks, coir and coir yarn and in the manufacture of coir products". In addition, the Government by virtue of Sub-Section 3(g) of Section 4 of the Coir Industry Act 1953 are empowered to appoint such other persons or class of persons who in their opinion ought to be represented on the Board.

Disposal of Nuclear Wastes

*341. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are no methods to dispose of low-level nuclear wastes from nuclear plants;

(b) the procedures adopted so far to dispose of low-level nuclear wastes in India;

(c) whether these wastes pose a threat to mankind and if so, the approximate period thereof;

(d) whether such waste causes cancer amongst the residents living nearby; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) there are many well developed methods in vogue for the disposal of low-level nuclear wastes. The techno-

logy of waste management in India has developed and is being practised in line with the state of the art in advanced countries.

(b) The procedures adopted vary with the level of radioactivity and the volume of the waste. Low level liquid waste is initially subjected to decontamination and volume reduction. It is then conditioned in solid matrices and packed in suitable containers. The containers are disposed in shallow underground engineered containment structures located in controlled areas with monitoring facilities.

(c) These wastes do not pose a health hazard if properly contained. Depending upon the nature and composition of the wastes, the radioactivity decays with time to insignificant levels. Radioactivity content and decay period depend on the origin of the waste.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Since such wastes are contained in engineered structures built in controlled areas and are effectively isolated from the environment, the levels of radiation dose are limited, and hence they are not known to cause cancer among the residents living nearby.

Allocations for 20-Point Programme

*342. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allotted to various States/Union Territories under the 20-Point Programme during 1989-90, 1990-91 and proposed to be allotted in 1991-92, State/Union Territory-wise and point-wise; and